

Claims

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An educational product evaluation method comprising:
  - 5           storing business goal rule data; and
  - analyzing the educational product based on the stored business goal rule data.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein analyzing the educational product includes generating at least one educational product alignment value for the
  - 10           educational product based on plurality of educational product evaluation category values and the stored business goal rule data.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein storing the business goal rule data includes storing data representing rules defined for a plurality of desired business goals wherein the business goal rule data represents data used to determine how the
  - 15           educational product measures against at least one of: a strategic importance level, a cost effectiveness level and an educational product impact level.
4. The method of claim 1 including presenting the educational product alignment value for a user.
5. An educational product evaluation method comprising:
  - 20           storing business goal rule data;
  - generating a plurality of educational product alignment values for each of a plurality of educational products, based on a plurality of associated plurality of educational product evaluation category values and the stored business goal rule data;

generating, for each educational product of interest, an overall business alignment value based on the plurality of educational product alignment values; and generating an educational product summary containing at least the overall business alignment value for each of the plurality of educational products.

5        6.        The method of claim 5 wherein storing the business goal rule data includes storing data representing rules defined for a plurality of desired business goals wherein the business goal rule data represents at least one of: a strategic importance level, a cost effectiveness level and an educational product impact level.

7.        The method of claim 5 including generating the educational product 10 summary to contain the plurality of educational product alignment values corresponding to each of the plurality of educational products.

8.        The method of claim 7 including presenting the educational product summary for a user.

9.        The method of claim 5 including generating the plurality of 15 educational product alignment values for each of a plurality of educational products based on received weighting values associated with each of the plurality of educational product alignment values.

10.        The method of claim 5 wherein generating the plurality of educational product alignment values for each of a plurality of educational products includes 20 generating a strategic importance alignment value, a cost effectiveness alignment value and an educational product impact alignment value.

11.        The method of claim 10 wherein the strategic importance alignment value is based on a strategic importance priority level data of an educational content area and on at least course hours for the educational products associated with the

educational content area; the cost effectiveness alignment value is based on at least a number of ours per educational product and a cost of the educational product; and the educational product impact alignment value is based on at least participant rating data and usage data associated with the educational product.

5           12. The method of claim 11 including presenting a content area importance table that visually differentiates each strategic importance priority level data for each educational content area.

13. The method of claim 5 wherein storing the business goal rule data includes providing a cost threshold input interface operative to receive cost thresholds 10 for different types of educational products.

14. The method of claim 5 wherein storing the business goal rule data includes providing an educational product time input interface operative to receive time threshold data for different types of educational products.

15. The method of claim 10 including generating a cost effectiveness 15 alignment value matrix containing at least description data relating to different cost scores and different corresponding time scores.

16. The method of claim 7 including generating the education product summary to include corresponding description data for each educational product and for each educational product alignment value for each educational product.

20           17. The method of claim 5 including generating an overall business alignment value range graphic element containing sub ranges corresponding to different degrees of alignment with corresponding business goal rule data.

18. The method of claim 5 including generating a graphic element illustrating educational product penetration compared to a group of educational products.

19. The method of claim 5 including generating an educational product  
5 content redundancy map indicating which educational products include subject matter that is pertinent to multiple strategic subject categories.

20. The method of claim 10 wherein generating the educational product summary includes providing a graphic element representing the educational product summary including visual coding of the strategic importance alignment value, the cost  
10 effectiveness alignment value and the educational product impact alignment value.

21. An educational product evaluation method comprising:  
storing business goal rule data;  
generating a plurality of educational product alignment values, for each  
of a plurality of educational products wherein the educational products include  
15 educational courses, based on a plurality of associated plurality of educational product evaluation category values and the stored business goal rule data;

storing each of the plurality of educational product alignment values;  
generating, for each educational product of interest, an overall business  
alignment value based on the plurality of stored educational product alignment values;  
20 generating an educational product summary containing at least the  
overall business alignment value for each of the plurality of educational products and  
the plurality of stored educational product alignment values that include: a strategic  
importance alignment value, a cost effectiveness alignment value and an educational  
product impact alignment value; and

wherein the strategic importance alignment value is based on strategic importance priority level data of an educational content area and on at least course hours for the educational products associated with the educational content area; the cost effectiveness alignment value is based on at least a number of ours per 5 educational product and a cost of the educational product; and the educational product impact alignment value is based on at least participant rating data and usage data associated with the educational.

22. The method of claim 21 including presenting a content area importance table that visually differentiates each strategic importance priority level data for each 10 educational content area.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein storing the business goal rule data includes providing a cost threshold input interface operative to receive cost thresholds for different types of educational products.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein storing the business goal rule data 15 includes providing an educational product time input interface operative to receive time threshold data for different types of educational products.

25. The method of claim 24 including generating a cost effectiveness alignment value matrix containing at least description data relating to different cost scores and different corresponding time scores.

26. The method of claim 25 including generating the education product 20 summary to include corresponding description data for each educational product and for each educational product alignment value for each educational product.

27. The method of claim 21 including generating an overall business alignment value range graphic element containing sub ranges corresponding to different degrees of alignment with corresponding business goal rule data.
28. The method of claim 21 including generating a graphic element illustrating educational product penetration compared to a group of educational products.
29. The method of claim 21 including generating an educational product content redundancy map indicating which educational products include subject matter that is pertinent to multiple strategic subject categories.
- 10 30. The method of claim 21 wherein generating the educational product summary includes providing a graphic element representing the educational product summary including visual coding the strategic importance alignment value, the cost effectiveness alignment value and the educational product impact alignment value.
- 15 31. An educational product evaluation apparatus comprising:
  - at least one processing device; and
  - memory containing executable instructions that when executed by the at least one processing device, causes the at least one processing device to:
    - store business goal rule data; and
    - generate at least one educational product alignment value for
- 20 the educational product based on plurality of educational product evaluation category values and the stored business goal rule data.
32. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the stored business goal rule data represents rules defined for a plurality of desired business goals wherein the business goal rule data represents data used to determine how the educational product measures

against at least one of: a strategic importance level, a cost effectiveness level and an educational product impact level.

33. The apparatus of claim 31 including a display operatively coupled to the at least one processing device, and wherein the at least one processing device 5 controls presentation of the educational product alignment value on the display for a user.

34. An educational product evaluation apparatus comprising:  
at least one processing device; and  
memory containing executable instructions that when executed by the  
10 at least one processing device, causes the at least one processing device to:  
store business goal rule data, provide plurality of educational product evaluation category values;  
generate a plurality of educational product alignment values for each of a plurality of educational products, based on a plurality of associated plurality  
15 of educational product evaluation category values obtained from the plurality of educational product evaluation category values source and the stored business goal rule data, and  
generate, for each educational product of interest, an overall business alignment value based on the plurality of educational product alignment  
20 values; and to generate an educational product summary containing at least the overall business alignment value for each of the plurality of educational products values that include: a strategic importance alignment value, a cost effectiveness alignment value and an educational product impact alignment value; and

wherein the strategic importance alignment value is based on a strategic importance priority level data of an educational content area and on at least course hours for the educational products associated with the educational content area; the cost effectiveness alignment value is based on at least a number of ours per 5 educational product and a cost of the educational product; and the educational product impact alignment value is based on at least participant rating data and usage data associated with the educational product.

35. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the memory includes executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to present a content area 10 importance table that visually differentiates each strategic importance priority level data for each educational content area.

36. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the memory includes executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to provide a cost threshold input interface operative to receive cost thresholds for different types of educational 15 products.

37. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the memory includes executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to provide an educational product time input interface operative to receive time threshold data for different types of educational products.

20 38. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the memory includes executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to generate a cost effectiveness alignment value matrix containing at least description data relating to different cost scores and different corresponding time scores.

39. A storage medium comprising:

memory containing executable instructions that when executed by the at least one processing device, causes the at least one processing device to:

store business goal rule data, provide plurality of educational product evaluation category values;

generate a plurality of educational product alignment values for each of a plurality of educational products, based on a plurality of associated plurality of educational product evaluation category values obtained from the plurality of educational product evaluation category values source and the stored business goal rule data, and

generate, for each educational product of interest, an overall business alignment value based on the plurality of educational product alignment values; and to generate an educational product summary containing at least the overall business alignment value for each of the plurality of educational products values that include: a strategic importance alignment value, a cost effectiveness alignment value and an educational product impact alignment value; and

wherein the strategic importance alignment value is based on strategic importance priority level data of an educational content area and on at least course hours for the educational products associated with the educational content area; the cost effectiveness alignment value is based on at least a number of ours per educational product and a cost of the educational product; and the educational product impact alignment value is based on at least participant rating data and usage data associated with the educational.

40. The storage medium of claim 39 wherein the memory includes executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to present a content area importance table that visually differentiates each strategic importance priority level data for each educational content area.

5 41. The storage medium of claim 39 wherein the memory includes executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to provide a cost threshold input interface operative to receive cost thresholds for different types of educational products.

42. The storage medium of claim 39 wherein the memory includes 10 executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to provide an educational product time input interface operative to receive time threshold data for different types of educational products.

43. An educational product evaluation apparatus comprising: 15 memory containing business goal rule data;

an educational product analyzer, operatively coupled to the memory, and further comprising:

a strategic importance generator operative to generate a strategic importance alignment value based on a plurality of associated strategic alignment category values and the business goal rule data;

20 a cost effectiveness generator operative to generate a cost effectiveness alignment value based on associated cost effectiveness category values and based on the business goal rule data;

an educational product impact generator operative to generate an educational product impact alignment value based on a plurality of associated

educational product impact category values and based on the stored business goal rule data;

an overall business alignment generator operatively coupled to the strategic importance generator, the cost effectiveness generator and the

5 educational product impact generator, and operative to generate, on a per educational product basis, an overall business alignment value based on the strategic importance alignment value, the cost effectiveness alignment value and the educational product impact alignment value; and

a multi-educational product summary generator, operatively  
10 coupled to the overall business alignment generator, and operative to generate an educational product summary containing at least the overall business alignment value for each of a plurality of educational products of interest and the strategic importance alignment value, the cost effectiveness alignment value and the educational product impact alignment value.

15 44. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the educational product summary contains visually coded representations of the strategic importance alignment value, the cost effectiveness alignment value and the educational product impact alignment value.

45. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the overall business alignment  
20 value is generated based on received weighting values associated with each of the cost effectiveness alignment value and the educational product impact alignment value.

46. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the educational product summary contains, for each educational product of interest, corresponding description data

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describing a level of each associated strategic importance alignment value, cost effectiveness alignment value and educational product impact alignment value.